

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method of reproducing information using an information recording medium in a client/server system, the method comprising the steps of:

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(a) a client obtaining characteristic information of the information recording medium;

(b) the client transmitting the characteristic information to a server;

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(c) the server obtaining usage information of the information recording medium based on the characteristic information;

(d) the server transmitting information based on the usage information to the client; and

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(e) the client reproducing the information recorded on the information recording medium in accordance with the information based on the usage information.

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2. A method of reproducing information using an information recording medium in a client/server system, the method comprising the steps of:

- 5           (a) a client obtaining characteristic information of the information recording medium;
- (b) the client transmitting the characteristic information to a first server;
- (c) the first server obtaining usage  
10 information of the information recording medium based on the characteristic information;
- (d) the first server transmitting first information based on the usage information to a second server;
- 15           (e) the second server transmitting second information stored therein to the client in accordance with the first information based on the usage information; and
- (f) the client reproducing the information  
20 based on the second information received from the second server.

3. The method as claimed in claim 2,  
wherein in said step (b), the client transmits the  
characteristic information to the first server via  
the second server.

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4. A client/server system reproducing  
10 information using an information recording medium,  
comprising:  
a client; and  
a server,  
wherein the client includes:  
15 a part configured to obtain  
characteristic information of the information  
recording medium;  
a part configured to transmit the  
characteristic information to the server; and  
20 a part configured to reproduce the  
information recorded on the information recording  
medium in accordance with information based on usage  
information of the information recording medium  
transmitted from the server; and  
25 the server includes:

a part configured to obtain the usage information based on the characteristic information of the information recording medium; and

5 a part configured to transmit the information based on the usage information to the client.

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5. A server providing information to a client using an information recording medium in response to a request of the client, the server comprising:

15 a first part configured to receive characteristic information of the information recording medium from the client;

a second part configured to obtain usage information of the information recording medium based  
20 on the characteristic information; and

a third part configured to transmit to the client information as to whether reproduction of information from the information recording medium is authorized based on the usage information.

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6. The server as claimed in claim 5,  
further comprising:

a fourth part configured to receive from the  
client the characteristic information of the  
5 information recording medium and notification  
requesting stoppage of usage of the characteristic  
information; and

a fifth part configured to delete the usage  
information of the information recording medium based  
10 on the characteristic information.

15 7. A computer-readable recording medium  
storing a program for causing a computer to execute a  
method, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving, based on a request of a  
client using an information recording medium,  
20 characteristic information of the information  
recording medium from the client;

(b) obtaining usage information of the  
information recording medium based on the  
characteristic information; and

25 (c) transmitting to the client information

as to whether reproduction of information from the information recording medium is authorized based on the usage information.

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8. The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 7, wherein the method further  
10 comprises the steps of:

(d) receiving from the client the characteristic information of the information recording medium and notification requesting stoppage of usage of the characteristic information; and

15 (e) deleting the usage information of the information recording medium based on the characteristic information.

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9. A client requesting a server to provide information thereto, the client using an information recording medium, the client comprising:

25 a first part configured to obtain

characteristic information of the information  
recording medium;

a second part configured to transmit the  
characteristic information to the server so that the  
5 server obtains usage information of the information  
recording medium;

a third part configured to receive  
information based on the usage information from the  
server; and

10 a fourth part configured to reproduce  
information recorded on the information recording  
medium in accordance with the information based on  
the usage information.

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10. A computer-readable recording medium  
storing a program for causing a computer to execute a  
20 method, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining characteristic information of  
an information recording medium;

(b) requesting a server to provide  
information and transmitting the characteristic  
25 information to the server so that the server obtains

usage information of the information recording medium;

(c) receiving information based on the usage information from the server; and

5 (d) reproducing information recorded on the information recording medium in accordance with the information based on the usage information.